

Message Text

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13
ACDA-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EA-07 /086 W
-----041811Z 024943 /43

R 041635Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6167
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USELM LIVE OAK
CUSMLM BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 03958

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, GW, GE, UR, WB
SUBJECT: ABRASIMOV COMMENTS ON BERLIN SITUATION, FLAG
PATROLS, AND POTSDAM MISSIONS

REF: USBER 423

1. IN MARCH 1 BONN GROUP MEETING, FRG REP (HENZE)
REPORTED ON AN INTERESTING CONVERSATION BETWEEN SOVIET
AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV AND THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO
THE GDR WHICH HENZE SAID HAD TAKEN PLACE RECENTLY AT
A RECEPTION IN EAST BERLIN. HENZE SAID THAT HE HAD
RECEIVED THE REPORT FROM THE FRG PERMANENT REPRESENTA-
TION IN EAST BERLIN.

2. ACCORDING TO HENZE, THE CONVERSATION TOUCHED ON
SEVERAL TOPICS INCLUDING THE QUADRIPARTITE STATUS OF
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BERLIN, ALLIED FLAG PATROLS IN EAST
BERLIN, AND THE ALLIED MILITARY LIAISON MISSIONS AT
POTSDAM:

-- QUADRIPARTITE STATUS.
ABRASIMOV CONTESTED ENERGETICALLY THE ASSER-
TION THAT IT APPLIED TO EAST BERLIN. SINCE

1948, THE SOVIET UNION HAD "STEP-BY-STEP" CONFERRED ADMINISTRATION OF EAST BERLIN ON THE GDR TO THE POINT THAT EAST BERLIN WAS NOW AN "INTEGRAL PART" OF THE GDR. BUT, ABRASIMOV ADDED, IT WAS WRONG TO SAY, AS DIE WAHRHEIT HAD RECENTLY REPORTED (REFTEL), THAT IT WAS DONE IN ONE SINGLE STEP IN 1948. HE HAS ASKED HIS COUNSELOR TO CORRECT DIE WAHRHEIT ON THAT POINT.

-- ALLIED FLAG PATROLS.

THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR POINTED TO THE FLAG PATROLS AS AN EXAMPLE OF FOUR POWER STATUS APPLYING TO EAST BERLIN. ABRASIMOV REPLIED THAT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SOVIET/GDR TREATY ENDING THE PAYMENT OF REPARATIONS, THE MOVEMENT OF SOVIET PERSONNEL THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE OF BERLIN HAD BEEN SETTLED ON A BILATERAL BASIS. IT HAD ALSO BEEN STIPULATED IN THE TREATY THAT THE UNIMPEDED ACCESS OF WESTERN PATROLS TO EAST BERLIN WOULD BE CONTINUED. COMMENT: HENZE SAID SUCH A STIPULATION WAS NEWS TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE, AS IT IS TO US. ABRASIMOV MAY HAVE BEEN REFERRING TO THE SEPTEMBER 1955 SOVIET-GDR TREATY, WHICH IN EFFECT CONFERRED SOVEREIGNTY ON THE GDR, AND THE ACCOMPANYING BOLZ-ZORIN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS. THE LATTER, WHICH GAVE THE GDR CONTROL OVER THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 03958

BETWEEN BERLIN AND THE FRG AND "IN BERLIN,"
STIPULATED THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD CONTINUE TO
CONTROL THE MOVEMENT BETWEEN WEST BERLIN AND
THE FRG OF THE MILITARY PERSONNEL AND FREIGHT
OF THE ALLIED GARRISONS IN WEST
BERLIN. IT DID NOT EXPRESSLY MENTION THE MOVE-
MENT OF ALLIED PERSONNEL WITHIN GREATER
BERLIN, BUT IT MAY WELL BE THAT THE SOVIETS
HAVE INTERPRETED IT TO MEAN THAT SUCH MOVE-
MENT IS STILL A FOUR-POWER MATTER.
THE TREATY ITSELF WAS CONCLUDED WITH REGARD
FOR THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE TWO PARTIES "UNDER
EXISTING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS RELATING TO
GERMANY AS A WHOLE." END COMMENT.

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-- ALLIED MILITARY MISSIONS.
THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR SAID THE EXISTENCE
OF THE MISSIONS AT POTSDAM DEMONSTRATED THE
CONTINUATION OF FOUR-POWER RIGHTS AND
RESPONSIBILITIES WITH REGARD TO GERMANY AS A
WHOLE. ACCORDING TO HENZE'S REPORT, ABRASIMOV
SAID THAT THE MISSIONS DID NOT EXIST ANY MORE
AND IN THE ENSUING DIFFERENCE OF OPINION
ABRASIMOV BET THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR
SEVERAL BOTTLES OF ARMENIAN COGNAC
ON THE POINT. AFTER THE RECEPTION, A SOVIET
EMBASSY OFFICIAL TELEPHONED THE AUSTRALIAN
AMBASSADOR AND SAID THAT FURTHER INQUIRY HAD
SHOWN THAT THERE WERE INDEED CERTAIN "ALLIED
REGISTRATION OFFICERS" (MELDEBEHOERDEN) AT
POTSDAM. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF THE COGNAC.

COMMENT: WE FIND THE WHOLE DIALOGUE ON THE
POTSDAM MISSIONS A LITTLE HARD TO BELIEVE
BUT REPORT IT FOR WHAT ITS WORTH. END COMMENT.
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Message Attributes

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